

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Original): A data communications apparatus for communicating in accordance with two or more communications protocols, comprising:

a core portion, the core portion being substantially independent of the two or more communications protocols; and

a peripheral portion, the peripheral portion being coupled to the core portion and including:

an ingress, and

an egress,

wherein the peripheral portion is configurable to receive at the ingress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols and to transmit at the egress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral portion includes a translation device.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral portion includes an adaptation device.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the translation device translates a first data format into a second data format.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the adaptation device selectively adapts to one of a first error protection scheme and a second error protection scheme.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first and second data formats are the spatial reuse protocol (SRP) data format and the resilient packet ring (RPR) data format, respectively, or the RPR data format and the SRP data format, respectively.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first error protection scheme comprises parity and the second error protection scheme comprises error correction.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the two or more communications protocols comprise the spatial reuse protocol (SRP) and the resilient packet ring (RPR) protocol.

Claim 9 (New): A method for communicating in accordance with two or more communications protocols, comprising the steps of:

providing a data communication device having a core portion, which is substantially independent of the two or more communications protocols, and a peripheral portion, which is coupled to the core portion and includes an ingress and an egress;

receiving at the ingress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols; and

transmitting at the egress data communications in accordance with the two or more communications protocols.

Claim 10 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein the receiving step comprises the step of translating a first data format into a second data format, and wherein the transmitting step comprises the step of translating the second data format into the first data format.

Claim 11 (New): The method of claim 10, wherein the first data format is the resilient packet ring (RPR) data format and the second data format is the spatial reuse protocol (SRP) data format.

Claim 12 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein the receiving step comprises the step of adapting to one of a first error protection scheme and a second error protection scheme.

Claim 13 (New): The method of claim 12, wherein the first error protection scheme comprises parity and the second error protection scheme comprises error correction.

Claim 14 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein the two or more communications protocols comprise the spatial reuse protocol (SRP) and the resilient packet ring (RPR) protocol.